

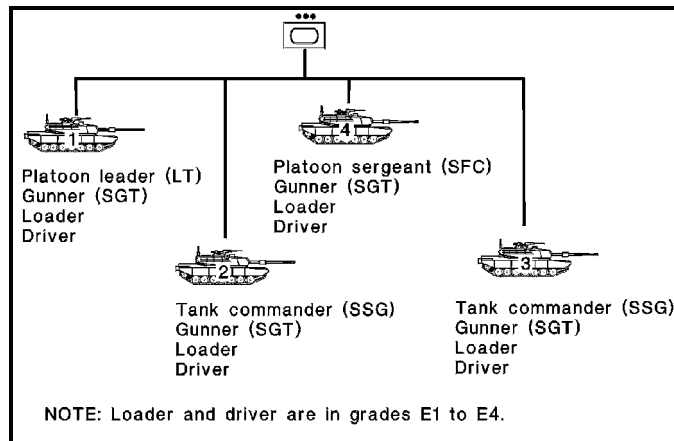
PART I

Command and Control (C2)

ORGANIZATION AND COMMAND

PLATOON ORGANIZATION

The tank platoon is organized as shown in the accompanying illustration.



Tank platoon organization.

SUCCESSION OF COMMAND

Succession of command normally is as follows:

- Platoon leader.
- PSG.
- Senior wingman TC.
- Junior wingman TC.
- Platoon leader's gunner.
- PSG's gunner.

ASSUMING COMMAND

During combat, any member of the platoon may be required to assume command. The following table lists steps that the new leader must take when such a change becomes necessary. Foremost, keep in mind this simple guideline for any soldier who must assume command: When in charge, TAKE CHARGE!!

STEP	ACTION – Assuming command
1	Inform higher headquarters (commander or CP) of the change immediately.
2	Reestablish the chain of command and inform the platoon of the change.
3	Change user ID for digital systems (M1A2).
4	Check the platoon's equipment and personnel status.
5	Confirm positions of all elements.
6	Assess the platoon's ability to continue the mission and report results to higher headquarters.
7	Continue the mission.

TROOP-LEADING PROCEDURES

Troop-leading, a dynamic part of the military decision-making process, begins when the platoon receives a new mission or is notified by warning order that a new mission is imminent. The company or troop commander announces his tactical decisions in the form of orders. Based on these orders, the platoon leader uses troop-leading procedures to organize his planning and preparation time and to translate the operation into instructions his soldiers can understand.

These are the eight steps of troop-leading procedures, which are covered in detail in FM 3-20.15 (Chapter 2):

- Receive and analyze the mission.
- Issue the warning order.
- Make a tentative plan.
- Initiate movement.

- Conduct reconnaissance and coordination.
- Complete the plan.
- Issue the OPORD.
- Supervise and refine.

Whenever possible, the troop-leading steps are accomplished concurrently rather than sequentially. Time management is the key. The platoon leader normally uses one-third of the available time to plan, prepare, and issue the order; TCs have the remaining two-thirds of the time available to prepare their tanks and crews for the operation. This is the “one-third/two-thirds” rule of time allocation.

ORDERS

WARNING ORDER

As a minimum, the WARNO includes the following:

- Updated enemy situation.
- Company/troop and platoon mission statement.
- Commander's intent.
- A tentative timeline, to include the following:
 - Earliest time of movement.
 - Specific instructions.
 - Time and location at which the platoon OPORD will be issued.

FRAGMENTARY ORDER

A FRAGO implements timely changes to existing orders and provides specific instructions to subordinates in situations that do not require a complete OPORD. The following considerations apply in the development and use of the FRAGO:

- The FRAGO contains only information required for subordinates to accomplish their mission:
 - Updated enemy and friendly situation.
 - Mission (ensure platoon tasks and purpose are clear).
 - Scheme of maneuver.
 - Updated graphics.
 - Specific instructions as necessary.
- Digitally equipped platoons can develop FRAGO graphics quickly and transmit them instantly.

OPERATION ORDER

Standard five-paragraph format

The OPORD is normally issued in the standard five-paragraph format, as illustrated in the following example.

TASK ORGANIZATION (company/troop).

PARAGRAPH 1. Situation.

- a. Weather and light data.
- b. Terrain.
- c. Enemy forces.
- d. Friendly forces.
- e. Attachments and detachments (platoon/higher).

PARAGRAPH 2. Mission (who, what when, where, and why).

PARAGRAPH 3. Execution.

- a. Intent (for both commander and platoon leader).
- b. Concept of the operation.
- c. Specific instructions.
- d. Coordinating instructions.

PARAGRAPH 4. Service Support.

- a. Location of trains.
- b. Material and services.
- c. Medical services.
- d. Personnel.
- e. Miscellaneous.

PARAGRAPH 5. Command and Signal.

- a. Command.
- b. Signal.

TIME CHECK (for synchronization).

Five-paragraph OPORD format.

OPORD matrix format

The following charts (pages 8 through 10) show how the OPORD can be presented in matrix format. The platoon leader can adapt this example to fit his unit's operational requirements.

TASK ORGANIZATION			
SITUATION ENEMY FORCES	Location	Strength	Equipment
	Probable COA		
	Most Dangerous COA		
FRIENDLY FORCES Company Mission Co Cdr's Intent	WEATHER/TERRAIN SR SS Illum		
Decisive Point Key Tasks Endstate			
Left Unit		Scouts	
Right Unit		Mortars	
Front Unit		Others	
Rear Unit			
ATTACHMENTS/DETACHMENTS			

OPORD matrix format (page 1 of 3).

MISSION		
EXECUTION		
INTENT		
CONCEPT OF THE OPERATION		
FIRES	OBS/MINES/FORT	INTEL/EW
SPECIFIED TASKS		COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS
1		
2		
3		
4		
OTHER		
ORDER OF MARCH		
ROUTE SP LD		
FORMATIONS		
MOPP		
PIR		
CCIR		
ROE		
BPT MISSIONS		
ADA		

OPORD matrix format (page 2 of 3).

ST 3-20.153

10

SERVICE AND SUPPORT		
GENERAL CONCEPT		
MATERIEL AND SERVICES SUPPLY		
CLASS I	PRI RESUPPLY	TF FIELD TRAINS
CLASS III	RATION CYCLE	TF CBT TRAINS
CLASS V	CSR	
OTHER		
TRANSPORTATION	MAINTENANCE	SERVICES
LOCATION OF MSR	PRIORITIES	KIA EVAC
PRIORITY MOVEMENT	REC/EVAC	DIRTY KIA
	TF UMCP	WATER POINTS
MEDICAL	PERSONNEL	MISC
TF MAS	EPW	
FAS	REPLACEMENTS	
WIA EVAC	PRI REPLACEMENTS	
DIRTY WIA		
WIA EPW		
COMMAND	SIGNAL	TIMELINE
CDR LOC	SOI	
XO LOC	HUSH	
1SG LOC	C/PW	
TF CDR LOC	AJ FREQ	
TF MAIN	SPEC SIGNALS	
SOC		

OPORD matrix format (page 3 of 3).

REPORTING LOCATIONS

REPORTING METHODS

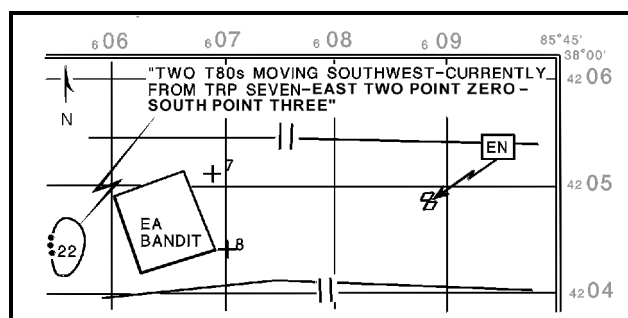
The following methods are available when the platoon must report friendly or enemy locations to higher headquarters or other maneuver elements:

- Shift from a previously issued graphic control measure, such as a checkpoint or TRP.
- The terrain index reference system (TIRS), which identifies locations on the ground based on terrain points previously designated on a map or overlay.
- Grid index reference system (GIRS), which uses the intersection of four grid squares as the known points.
- Digital platoons can use the FBCB2 system to report friendly or enemy locations.

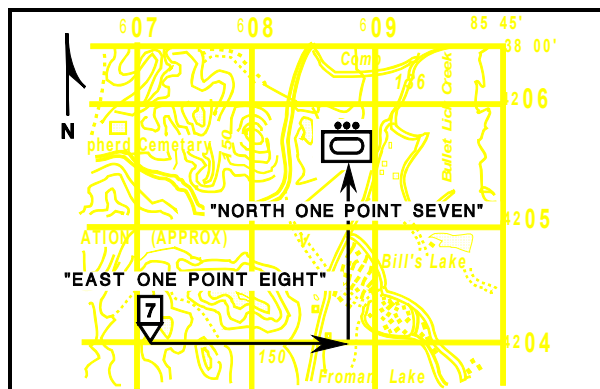
The technique of using a shift from a known point to report friendly and enemy locations is shown in illustrations on this page and the following page.

PRECAUTION

When identifying a location using a shift from a graphic control measure or TRP, do not use the reference point from which the shift is made more than two times on an unsecured net.



Enemy position report using shift from a known point (TRP).



Example of shifting from a known point.

COMMUNICATIONS GUIDELINES

COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES

Use these guidelines in establishing/maintaining effective communications:

- During mission planning and preparation, make maximum use of secure communications (person to person, hot loops).
- Before enemy contact is made, the primary means of communications for the digital platoon is the FBCB2 system.
- During mission execution, maximize the use of visual signals.

LOSS OF SOI/ANCD

Immediately report the loss of SOI and/or ANCDs to the commander or XO by secure means.

READINESS CONDITIONS (REDCON)

REDCON levels allow quick responses to changing situations and ensure completion of necessary work and rest plans. The commander and platoon leader use the REDCON status as a standardized way to adjust the unit's readiness to move and fight. The following chart summarizes operational considerations for each REDCON level.

REDCON LEVEL	ACTIONS – Readiness conditions (REDCON)
REDCON-1 Full alert; unit ready to move and fight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NBC alarms and hot loop equipment stowed; OPs pulled in. All personnel alert and mounted on vehicles; weapons manned. Engines started; platoon ready to move immediately. <p>NOTE: The level of REDCON-1.5 is the same as REDCON-1 except vehicles are not started.</p>
REDCON-2 Full alert; unit ready to fight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment stowed (except hot loop and NBC alarms); precombat checks complete. All personnel alert and mounted in vehicles; weapons manned. (NOTE: Dismounted OPs and M8/M22 alarms employed as necessary.) All digital and FM links operational. Status reports submitted IAW company/troop SOP. Platoon ready to move within 15 minutes.
REDCON-3 Reduced alert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 percent of platoon executes work/rest plans. Remainder of platoon executes security plan. (Some may execute portions of work plan.) Platoon ready to move within 30 minutes.
REDCON-4 Minimum alert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPs manned; one man per platoon designated to monitor radio and man turret weapons. Remainder of platoon executes work/rest plans. Digital/FM links maintained. Platoon ready to move within 60 minutes.

FBCB2 START-UP PROCEDURES

The following table lists steps the tank crew takes in powering up the FBCB2 system.

STEP	ACTION – FBCB2 start-up procedures
1	Power up the PLGR ; ensure unobstructed line of sight (LOS) for PLGR to acquire satellites.
2	Press the DOWN arrow button until FOM is displayed.
3	Turn EPLRS power to ON + audible . Ensure no red lights are lit.
4	Verify that the URO Radio Set ID is the same as the FBCB2 setting.
5	Turn vehicular amplifier adapter CB1 toggle switch to ON .
6	Set radio function switch to Squelch On and verify settings.
7	Verify that the COMSEC Crypto key is loaded.
8	Verify that the Net ID is the same as the FBCB2 setting.
9	Verify the PCKT mode by pressing 4 , then 7 until PCKT is displayed.
10	Set the circuit breaker/switch on the PU to ON .
11	Press Display Unit Power button for 4 seconds and release.
12	Select Cancel Timeout .
13	Check the color of the GPS and Router dialog boxes to determine your status. These should be green; if they are red or yellow, a problem exists that must be addressed.
14	Select DONE on the GPS and Router when initialization is complete.
15	Select the START button.
16	Select the LOGIN option.
17	Type in your password .
18	Select the Continue button.
19	Check the Unit/Role in the Function Bar ; if the setting is wrong, perform the Configure Role Setup procedure before proceeding.
20	Select OPS button on the Session Manager function bar.

RADIO CHANNEL PRESET PROCEDURES

All tanks will preset radios to the following frequencies.

CHANNEL/ CUE	SETTING – Radio channel presets
Platoon leader/PSG – Radio set AN/VRC-89A/F	
Top radio (platoon)	
Manual	Designated manual frequency
Channel 1	Platoon
Channel 2	Company/troop
Channel 3	Task force command
Channel 4	2 ^d Platoon
Channel 5	3 rd Platoon
Channel 6	Mortar FDC
CUE	Designated cue frequency
Bottom radio (company/troop)	
Manual	Designated manual frequency
Channel 1	Company/troop
Channel 2	Platoon
Channel 3	Task force command
Channel 4	Brigade command
Channel 5	Task force scout platoon
Channel 6	Task force fire support
CUE	Designated cue frequency
Tanks 2 and 3 – Radio set AN/VRC-87A/F	
Manual	Designated manual frequency
Channel 1	Platoon
Channel 2	Company/troop
Channel 3	Task force command
Channel 4	2 ^d Platoon
Channel 5	3 rd Platoon
Channel 6	Mortar FDC
CUE	Designated cue frequency

ATTACHMENTS AND DETACHMENTS

ATTACHMENTS TO THE PLATOON

When additional assets are attached to the platoon, the platoon leader takes the actions listed in the following table.

STEP	ACTION – Attachments to the platoon
1	Provide guides/liaison personnel as needed to assist incoming elements upon their arrival in the platoon position.
2	Brief leaders of the incoming elements on these subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Platoon organization and current status.• Overlays and graphic control measures (digitally equipped elements can use FBCB2).• OPORD/FRAGOs/WARNOs.• SOP(s).
3	To ensure effective support, assist the incoming element leaders in their planning process.

PLATOON DETACHMENT TO ANOTHER UNIT

The following table lists steps the platoon leader should take when the platoon is detached from its parent unit and attached to another unit.

NOTE: A digitally equipped platoon that is attached to a nondigitized element will have to submit many reports by FM voice. Digital capabilities will still aid you in fighting your platoon; however, you will not have a digital interface with higher headquarters.

STEP	ACTION – Platoon attached to another unit
1	Ensure that all vehicles are refueled and rearmed before attachment to the new unit.
2	Physically report to the CP/TOC of the new unit as soon as possible.
3	Coordinate the following with appropriate CP/TOC personnel: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organization and status of weapons, logistics, and personnel.• Situational understanding (both enemy and friendly situations).• Service support requirements.• Capabilities and limitations.
4	Obtain and/or provide necessary tactical information, to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The maneuver plan, including graphics (analog and digital) and sketch cards.• Command and control information, including TSOP and SOI/ANCD.

LIMITED VISIBILITY OPERATIONS

The following table lists steps the platoon takes for operations in limited visibility conditions.

STEP	ACTION – Limited visibility operations
1	Tanks 2 and 3 conduct physical linkup with adjacent units and exchange operational data.
2	Drivers and loaders emplace limited visibility markings using thermal tape, CIP panels, and chem lights.
3	TCs and loaders test NVGs.
4	Drivers test VVS-2.
5	Drivers program routes into the POSNAV system.
6	If infantry is attached, platoon leader assigns patrol routes for local security.
7	Digital platoons use the CITV and POSNAV systems and set waypoints to navigate and control directions; other tank platoons use PVS-7s and PLGRs.
8	Scan using the thermal channel in 3X, and engage targets in 10X. NOTE: SEP units scan in 3X, 6X, 25X, and 50X and engage in 13X.
9	Platoon leader/PSG coordinate logistical requirements specific to limited visibility operations.